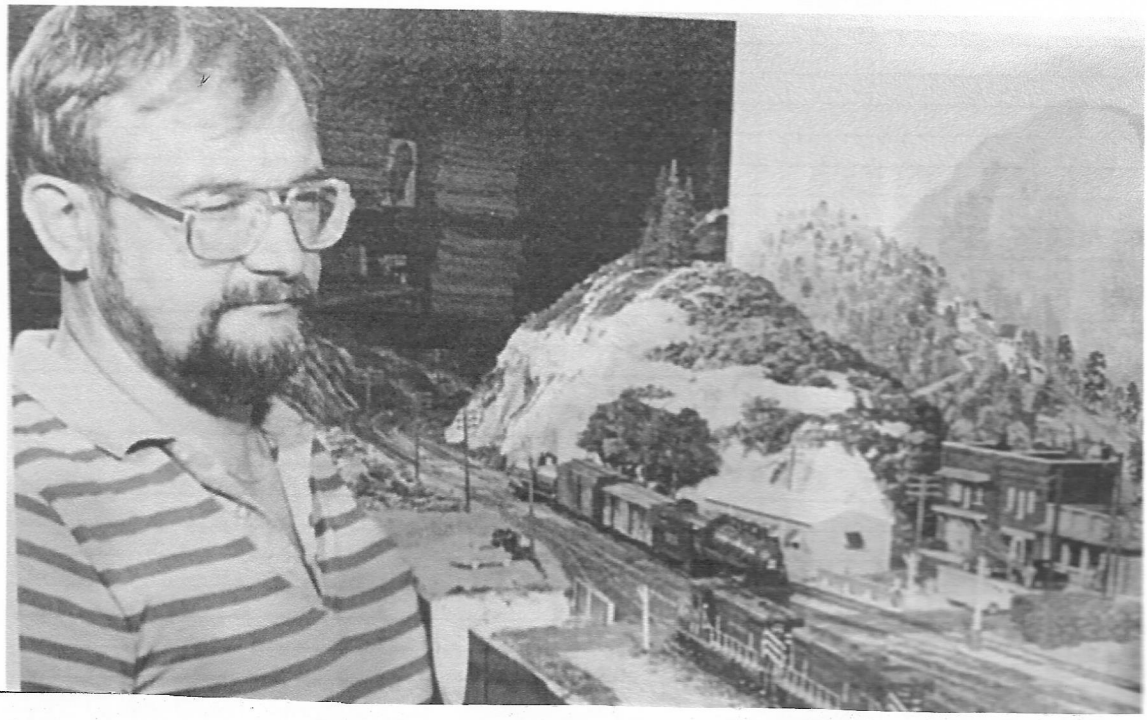

Early fascination led to lifelong hobby

Jester earns MMR 209

"How do you do! My name is Sue!" This song strikes a sympathetic chord with Jan Jester, MMR 209 as his given name has caused him similar problems many times during his lifetime. This is why all of his business correspondence is signed Jan Edward Jester to, as he says, "To give them a hint."

Jan grew up in Southwest Missouri and began watching Frisco trains at the age of four. By the age of five, he was sketching Frisco steam locomotives and still has some of them which indicate that the boilers and cabs were not too hard to figure out, but the side rods and valve gear were still years away.

As a sixth grader, in 1948, he bought his first copy of *Model Railroader* for 35 cents. The same year he bought a scale rule, a pair of Megow trucks, some Mantua couplers, and a Strombecker wooden reefer kit. Thus began many happy years of model railroading.

Jan has been working out of the country for the past three years as a construction side manager for Marconi Communications, Inc. The first project was in Greece and he is now working in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka project is a forty million dollar relay station for the Voice of America and is rated at five hundred thousand watts and has a range of two thousand miles.

The National Railway of Sri Lanka has been interesting for Jan to watch and has the widest track gauge in the world. This makes the rolling stock look like S gauge bodies on O-gauge trucks as they sway along through the jungle.

Jan has received Achievement Certificates in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Scenery, Prototype Scene, Cars, Motive Power, and Author.

When home, Jan enjoys the company of his wife, Diane, who is always ready to go on a train watching tour of the Kansas City area and its railroads. Jan also has kept in touch with many modelers in Kansas City while away and looks forward to seeing them each time he is in the country.

Jan holds a five year architectural degree from Kansas State University; a masters degree in architectural engineering from the University of Kansas; and is registered as an architect in fifteen states. He very much enjoys following the teams of the Wildcats and Jayhawks even if it is, currently, through the newspaper sent to him in Sri Lanka.

Jan's intense interest in the Frisco has stayed with him and he is member of the Frisco Modelers Information Group and the Frisco Railroad Museum in Springfield, MO. His most recent models include the Newburg, MO station which received First Place, On Line Structures, at this past summer's Mid-Continent Region Convention.